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COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 25 July 1950

SUBJECT North Korean Military Movements in
the 38th Parallel Area

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1. As part of the air-raid defense precautions in the border area, youths and some adults in villages along the parallel were organized in April as fire-fighting brigades. Members receive instruction in air-raid and other types of civilian defense measures. Women are to be included in the groups later.
2. On 28 April 1950, the Fifth Battalion of the People's Army Heavy Armored Regiment moved via Pyongyang, Sariwon (125-44, 38-30), and Sinmak (126-44, 38-26) into a mountainous region slightly southwest of Namchonjom (126-24, 38-20). The unit is commanded by Major Yi Kap-kil (李甲吉) and includes fifteen medium-sized Soviet-made tanks, eight small armored cars, some of Soviet and some of Japanese manufacture, and three hundred infantry men. The assignment of the unit is night patrols on the border. The tank personnel were trained by two senior lieutenants and one junior lieutenant of the Soviet Military Advisory Group.
3. On 30 April, the Border Constabulary of the North Korean Department of Interior issued a special order transferring the first, second, and third garrison troops from the Korea-Manchuria frontier to the Seventh Brigade. The order removed 2,100 troops from the command of Major HAN Kwang-ch'ol (韓光喆) of the Manchurian border forces of the PA.
4. On 16 May, high-ranking staff members of the People's Army and the Border Constabulary and Soviet military advisers held a secret conference at PA headquarters to discuss mechanization measures. The group decided to set up a motorized unit on the border to facilitate emergency liaison operations. Sixteen officers of the PA and fifteen of the BC were ordered to the Hwanghae area of Kangwon Province to set up the unit. Two headquarters were established, one at Haeju (125-42, 38-02) and a second at Wonsan (127-26, 39-10), and motorized companies and platoons were stationed along the border.
5. The Border Constabulary assigned 360 small automobiles purchased from the USSR and 400 Japanese-made cars to the 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 6th garrisons on the 38th Parallel in Hwanghae and Kangwon Provinces to facilitate liaison.

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6. In late May, a PA artillery unit of about 500 infantry and five 120-mm mortars, ten 75-mm mortars, and 45-mm anti-tank guns was transferred to Haeju, traveling by car.
7. The Border Constabulary has organized a battalion of Horse-mounted Signal Corps, with 600 men and 550 horses, under the command of Major YI Kun-saeng (李 根 生). After an intensive training course, units of the corps are to be attached to each BC brigade.

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